Previously in X-Men:

After the tragic events of M-Day, a day that saw 90% of the world's mutants lose their powers, THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING opened its gates as a mutant sanctuary. However, THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY soon stepped in as well. Bringing with them five manned Sentinels, the government offshoot came, offering protection to the mutants in their time of need.

But tensions began to run high and finally...the situation exploded. Literally.

Renegade mutants DOMINO and SHATTERSTAR set off explosions around the perimeter of the institute and staged a rescue mission for the refugee mutants within its walls.

Now, it's a race to find these refugee mutants. One of the X-Men, BISHOP, is leading a government-sponsored team with the help of IRON MAN. Their mission is to return the mutants to Xavier's. However, four of the original X-Men, ICEMAN, ARCHANGEL, BEAST, and CYCLOPS have set off as well, to reach the mutants first. They don't want to see their fellow mutants locked up like animals anymore.

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YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.
HUMAN PILOTS. YES OR NO?
YES.
NOW PLEASE, STOP AVOIDING THE SUBJECT. I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHERE CYCLOPS AND THE OTHERS HAVE GONE.
ARE THEY WITH THE 198?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL TELEPATHS ON EARTH. DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU *AREN'T* IN CONTACT WITH CYCLOPS?
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT STUPID?
MISS COOPER, IF YOU REALLY THINK I'D BETRAY THE MAN I LOVE SO THAT YOU CAN SIC YOUR KILLER ROBOTS ON HIM, YOU'RE NOT JUST STUPID--
--YOU'VE CROSSED A LINE--
--YOU'VE JOINED THE *MONSTERS*.

SOMEWHERE IN ILLINOIS.
ANY LUCK?
I'M THROUGH. I'VE REACHED CAPTAIN AMERICA.
MY GOD, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, CYCLOPS? THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME FOR ME.
I WAS TOLD THIS WAS THE SECURE WAY TO CONTACT YOU. I NEED YOUR HELP.
THIS LINE IS FOR SUPERHUMANS WHO WANT TO JOIN US.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE TRYING TO PERSUADE YOU DOWN OFF THE FENCE.
I'M NOT ON THE FENCE. TWO NIGHTS AGO, I WATCHED GOOD PEOPLE PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE TO SEE MUTANTS IN A CAGE.
I'M BEING TOLD THIS IS WHAT MY COUNTRY WANTS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
YOU'RE WAVING THE FLAG IN MY FACE NOW?
YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S PRESSED FOR TIME, CAP. THE 198 ARE BEING TRACKED RIGHT NOW BY A TEAM OF SENTINELS AND MUTANTS LED BY BISHOP. IF WE DON'T FIND THEM FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO BE PICKING THEM UP IN PIECES. SO JUST TELL ME---
---DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?

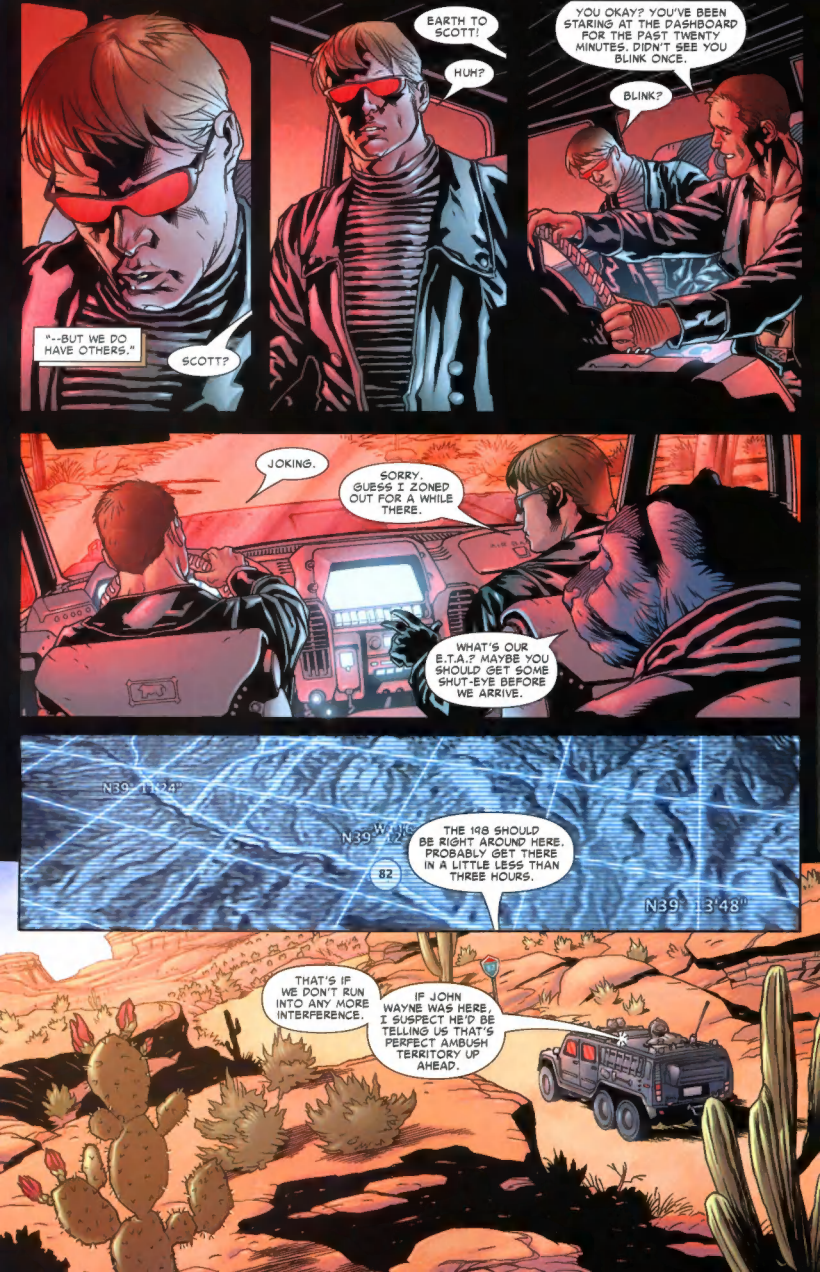
WARREN, YOU SEEING THIS?
SOMETHING SPOOKED THE HELL OUT OF THOSE BIRDS.
YOU HEAR THAT?
WHATEVER'S COMING, IT'S BIG.
NO PROBLEM. I COULD USE A WORKOUT.
OH CRAP!
SURRENDER!
SURRENDER? WHAT PLANET ARE YOU FROM?!
YOU MAY BE THE NEW SUPER-CHARGED EDITION, BUT THE DAY HASN'T COME WHEN THE X-MEN CAN'T TAKE DOWN ONE LOUSY SENTINEL!
CAREFUL, BOBBY, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE NEW SENTINELS ARE CAPABLE OF!

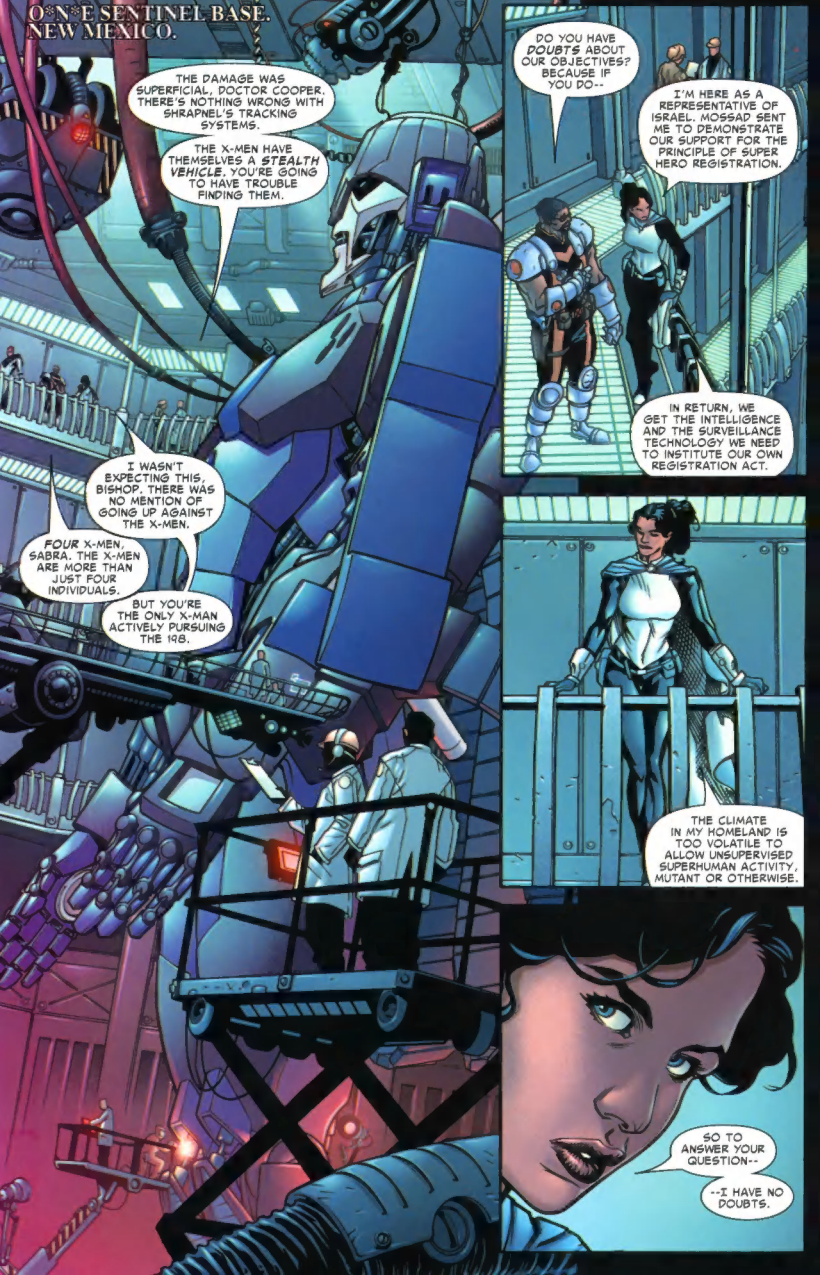
IT'S NOT MOVING. WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
THIS THING TALKS THE TALK, BUT IT DON'T DANCE THE TANGO.
UH, BOBBY, I WOULDN'T BREAK OUT THE CHAMPAGNE JUST YET--
--I THINK OUR METAL FRIEND IS ABOUT TO PUT ON HIS DANCING SHOES.
WAS THAT IT?
O*N*E COMMAND, THIS IS SLAYTON. I'M ABOUT TO APPREHEND MUTANTS CYCLOPS, BEAST, ICEMAN AND ARCHANGEL.
RECOMMEND DOWNGRADING THEIR THREAT LEVEL TO...
...UH, DO WE HAVE A CATEGORY FOR PUSHOVER?
WHOOOMMMMP!!

SCOTT! MAY I SUBMIT THAT ON THIS OCCASION, DISCRETION MAY BE THE BETTER PART OF VALOR?
AGREED! GET THE X-ROVER FIRED UP.
BOBBY! FIRE AND ICE!!
FZAASSSHH!!
THIS MANEUVER IS POINTLESS. I HAVE A DOZEN WAYS TO TRACK YOU.
I HAVE YOUR VEHICLE ON THERMAL, SONAR, RADAR AND I ALSO HAVE A FIX ON YOUR INDIVIDUAL GENETIC SIGNATURES.
@#*%#.

WE LOST HIM. NOTHING IN SIGHT FOR MILES. FORGE'S *RED HERRING* JAMMER WORKED.
HOORAY FOR US. OUR TECH BEATS THEIR TECH.
FACT IS, WE RAN AWAY. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE 198 IF WE CAN'T EVEN FACE DOWN ONE SENTINEL?
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN WE FIND THEM.
WHAT DID YOU GET FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA, SCOTT?
NICK FURY HAS FED HIM A LIST OF FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D. BASES. HE PASSED ON THE LOCATION AND ACCESS CODES OF ONE OF THEM TO DOMINO.
"THE BASE IS IN THE NEVADA DESERT. IT WAS LEASED BY THE PENTAGON FOR STOCKPILING EMERGENCY RATIONS DURING THE COLD WAR. HASN'T BEEN MANNED FOR A DECADE.
"THE LAST PLACE THE O*N*E WILL BE LOOKING FOR THE 198 IS IN ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN DEFENSE FACILITIES."
SO WHO CHOSE THIS PLACE, DOMINO? WE TAKE THE 198 OUT OF A CONCENTRATION CAMP AND BURY THEM IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND? AT LEAST IN THE XAVIER ESTATE THEY COULD SEE DAYLIGHT.
CALIBAN LIKES IT.
CALIBAN LIVED HALF HIS LIFE IN A SEWER. OF *COURSE* HE LIKES IT!
IF WE HAD OUR PICK OF DESERT BUNKERS THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN MY FIRST CHOICE, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I'M NOT COMPLAINING.
WE COULD FEED AN ARMY WITH THE SUPPLIES STORED HERE AND THOSE DOORS WERE BUILT TO WITHSTAND A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.
4-B

"SPEAKING OF DOORS... DID YOU NOTICE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT OF HERE? DIDN'T CABLE TEACH YOU ANYTHING ABOUT MILITARY STRATEGY?
"NEVER LEAVE YOURSELF WITHOUT AN ESCAPE ROUTE."
SNRRF
"IT'S TOO LATE FOR SECOND THOUGHTS NOW, SHATTERSTAR. WE MADE THE DECISION TO FREE THE 198. IT'S WHAT X-FORCE IS ALL ABOUT...
"THE SURVIVAL OF THE MUTANT RACE. LIFE, LIBERTY, THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. STUFF LIKE THAT..."
"SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THESE PEOPLE NOW?"
"FOR THE MOMENT, WE FEED THEM, WE SHELTER THEM. WE PROTECT THEM.
NNRRRRGH?
GRRR-RRRR
"AFTER THAT, I GUESS WE PUT OUR TRUST IN FATE. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH ME...
"...THINGS HAVE A WAY OF TURNING OUT FOR THE BEST."
CALIBAN DOES NOT LIKE THIS.
ANGER

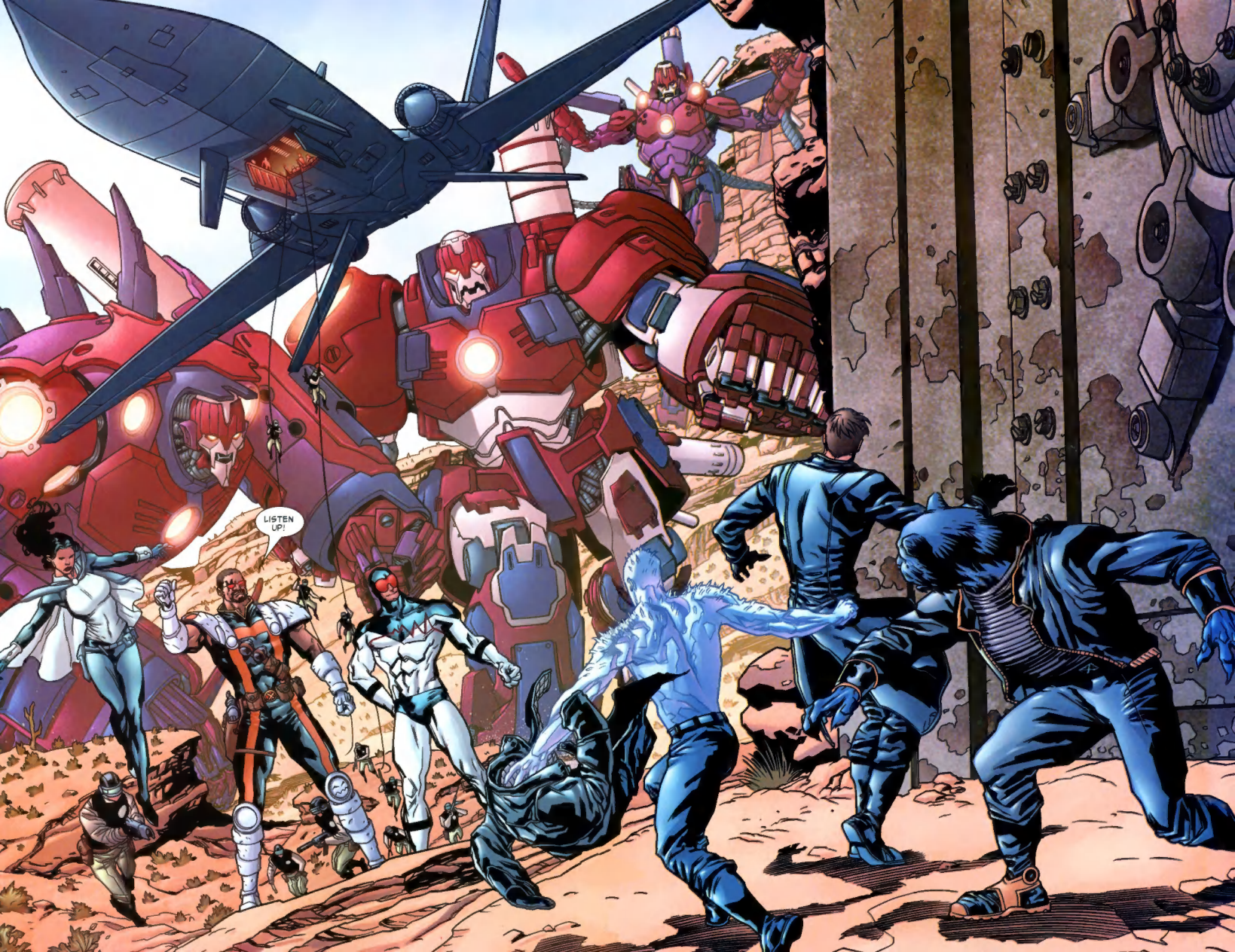

"--BUT WE DO HAVE OTHERS."
SCOTT?
EARTH TO SCOTT!
HUH?
YOU OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT THE DASHBOARD FOR THE PAST TWENTY MINUTES. DIDN'T SEE YOU BLINK ONCE.
BLINK?
JOKING.
SORRY. GUESS I ZONED OUT FOR A WHILE THERE.
WHAT'S OUR E.T.A.? MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET SOME SHUT-EYE BEFORE WE ARRIVE.
N39° 13'24"
82
THE 198 SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND HERE. PROBABLY GET THERE IN A LITTLE LESS THAN THREE HOURS.
N39° 13'48"
THAT'S IF WE DON'T RUN INTO ANY MORE INTERFERENCE.
IF JOHN WAYNE WAS HERE, I SUSPECT HE'D BE TELLING US THAT'S PERFECT AMBUSH TERRITORY UP AHEAD.


O*N*E SENTINEL BASE.
NEW MEXICO.
THE DAMAGE WAS SUPERFICIAL, DOCTOR COOPER. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH SHRAPNEL'S TRACKING SYSTEMS.
THE X-MEN HAVE THEMSELVES A STEALTH VEHICLE. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE FINDING THEM.
I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS, BISHOP. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF GOING UP AGAINST THE X-MEN.
FOUR X-MEN, SABRA. THE X-MEN ARE MORE THAN JUST FOUR INDIVIDUALS.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY X-MAN ACTIVELY PURSUING THE 198.
DO YOU HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT OUR OBJECTIVES? BECAUSE IF YOU DO--
I'M HERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL. MOSSAD SENT ME TO DEMONSTRATE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SUPER HERO REGISTRATION.
IN RETURN, WE GET THE INTELLIGENCE AND THE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY WE NEED TO INSTITUTE OUR OWN REGISTRATION ACT.
THE CLIMATE IN MY HOMELAND IS TOO VOLATILE TO ALLOW UNSUPERVISED SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY, MUTANT OR OTHERWISE.
SO TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION--
--I HAVE NO DOUBTS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, MICROMAX?
MEAN-LOOKING SOD, ISN'T HE?
GLAD HE'S ON OUR SIDE.
I NEED TO KNOW, MISTER WRIGHT. DO YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THIS?
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REQUIRES ME TO PLACE MYSELF UNDER YOUR COMMAND FOR THE DURATION, MISTER BISHOP.
I'M A GOOD LITTLE POODLE.
IF I HAVE ANY PERSONAL DOUBTS, I'LL KEEP THEM TO MYSELF.
JUST LIKE YOU.
BISHOP...
...I THINK WE JUST GOT LUCKY.
THE PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING FULL PARDONS FOR ALL THE ESCAPED MUTANTS.

IT [redacted] THERE'S A GROUNDSWELL OF OPINION IN FAVOR OF GRANTING THE 198 AN UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY.
SEVERAL HIGH-PROFILE CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS HAVE QUESTIONED THE LEGALITY OF THEIR DETENTION.
THE SMART MONEY SAYS MUTANTS WILL BE TREATED THE SAME AS OTHER SUPERHUMANS.
THAT [redacted] NO MORE DETENTION. THEY'LL BE FREE TO GO.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I'D SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND THE 198.
THEY'VE DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF DISAPPEARING. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS STAY OFF THE RADAR UNTIL THE PRESIDENT HAS HIS SAY.
IT WOULD MAKE ALL OUR LIVES A LOT SIMPLER.
SIR, IT'S GENERAL LAZER ON THE SECURE LINE FROM THE PENTAGON.
REALLY?
HOW DID YOU FIND THEM, GENERAL?
I HAVE MY METHODS.

DOMINO, I'M STARTING TO FEEL STUPID STANDING OUT HERE TALKING TO A DOOR.
ARE YOU GOING TO LET US IN OR NOT?
IF CAPTAIN AMERICA SENT HIM, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRUST HIM.
ALL RIGHT, SCOTT. I'M GOING TO OPEN UP, BUT IF YOU'RE MESSING WITH US--
NO TRICKS, DOMINO. IT'S JUST THE FOUR OF US.
FOUR? DON'T HAVE ALL THE TECH STUFF UP AND RUNNING YET. OUR CAMERAS ONLY PICKING UP THREE OF YOU.
ARCHANGEL IS HERE TOO. HE'S TAKING A LOOK AROUND, CHECKING FOR TROUBLE.
THEY FOUND US! THEY'RE HERE!
WHO?!


LISTEN UP!

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, SCOTT. THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE A TOTAL AMNESTY FOR THE 198.
SO LET'S JUST BACK OFF AND BE COOL, OKAY?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, BISHOP?! I WANT THE 198 BROUGHT IN *NOW!*
I'M FIELD COMMANDER OF THIS OPERATION. THAT MAKES IT MY CALL.
I'M GOING TO STAND OUR PEOPLE DOWN AND WAIT FOR WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT.
DO THEY THINK MUTANTS CAN BE LICENSED AND REGULATED LIKE *DOCTORS?!* THEY CAN ONLY BE *CONTROLLED* OR--
THIS IS AMAZING. THERE'S SO MUCH POWER. SO MUCH...
...CYCLOPS HAS NEVER USED MORE THAN A FRACTION OF HIS FULL CAPACITY. HE'S SO AFRAID OF IT. HE WON'T LET HIMSELF GO.

THEN LET'S SEE WHAT HE CAN DO! MAKE HIM USE IT--ALL OF IT--EVERY LAST IOTA OF HIS POWER.
USE IT ON BISHOP!
YOU REALIZE, IT WILL PROBABLY KILL THEM BOTH.
DO IT.
BISHOP!
SCOTT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
FZZZZSSSHH
YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THIS? ALL RIGHT, SUMMERS.
POWER ME UP!

NO! WAIT! THIS IS--
--TOO MUCH!
BURNING ME UP--
--I CAN'T--
--NNNNN--
AAAAAARRGGGHHH!!!!
TO BE CONTINUED...